

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00720 181607Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----019174 181616Z /45

O P 181445Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 940
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T DJIBOUTI 720

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PORT, DJ
SUBJ: DJIBOUTI, CUBA AND THE NAM

REF: STATE 107365

SUMMARY - DJIBOUTI FEELS THREATENED DIRECTLY BY ALL THE
VARIOUS PROTAGONISTS IN THE TROUBLED HORN OF AFRICA, NOT

THE LEAST OF THOSE THREATS BEING CUBA. NOT YET A MEMBER OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, DJIBOUTI MAY BE RECEPTIVE TO YUGOSLAV FEELER FOR RECOGNITION AS PRELUDE TO EVENTUAL ATTENDANCE AT THIS YEAR' NAM MEETING IN BELGRADE. END SUMMARY.

1. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO RAISE DJIBOUTI CONCERNS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. THEY ARE AWARE OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN TRAINING ETHNIC AFAR DISSIDENTS IN DJIBOUTI'S ETHIOPIAN HINTERLAND. THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT WITHOUT CUBAN INTERVENTION, THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD NOT HAVE REGAINED THE OGADEN. THE DJIBOUTIANS RECENTLY REJECTED CUBAN OVERTURES FOR RECOGNITION. AT LEAST IN DJIBOUTI CITY, EVERYONE AGREES THAT THE SOONER THE CUBANS GET OUT OF ETHIOPIA, YEMEN AND THE WHOLE OF AFRICA THE BETTER.

2. IN A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED ON 17 MAY, THE CHARGE DID NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT CUBANS. PRESIDENT GOULED LED OFF THE DISCUSSION WITH AN ATTACK ON ALLEGED WESTERN COMPLACENCY IN THE FACE OF SOVIET/CUBAN PROVOCATIONS. PLEADINGLY, HE ASKED WHY WESTERN COUNTRIES DO NOT FORCE A SHOWDOWN WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE USE OF CUBAN MERCENARIES IN AFRICA. HE NOTED THAT THE MASS OF AFRICAN PEOPLES KNOW NOTHING OF IDEOLOGY AND CARE LESS. WHAT THEY RESPOND TO IS FIRMNESS AND FORCE.

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THE DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT REPORTED THAT AMONG THE COMMON PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI, THE "RUSSIANS ARE EVERYTHING...THEY SEE NO REACTION FROM THE OTHER SIDE." HE NOTED BITTERLY THAT BOTT SOMALI AND AFAR YOUTH ARE TANTALIZED BY MARXISM AND THE PROMISES OF POWER WHICH IT BRINGS. THE PRESIDENT LATER IN THE CONVERSATION SPECIFIED THAT THIS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE HE WANTED CHARGE TO TAKE BACK TO WASHINGTON ON CHARGE'S PLANNED CONSULTATIONS.

3. THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT RECENTLY WAS APPROACHED BY YUGOSLAV ENVOY THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN PARIS WITH INVITATION TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. YUGOSLAVS INDICATED THAT RECOGNITION NECESSARY SO THAT INVITATION TO BELGRADE NAM MEETING COULD BE EXTENDED. REPORTEDLY, PRIME MINISTER (AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) ABDALLAH KAMIL WELL DISPOSED TO TAKE UP INVITATION. THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND.

4. WHETHER THE DJIBOUTIANS AT SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO EXPRESS THEIR TRUE FEELINGS ABOUT THE CUBANS IS A FUNCTION OF SEVERAL FACTORS. THE ETHIOPIANS, WITH WHOM THE DJIBOUTIANS ARE NOW DEVELOPING HOPEFULLY FRUITFUL RELATIONS, WILL ADVANCE STRONGLY PRO-CUBAN ARGUMENTS. THE

SOMALIS, EXERCIZING THEIR FADING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH
DJIBOUTI LEADERS, WILL PUSH IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. IN A
RECENT DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL OF CUBAN
ROLE IN THE NAM., IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT POSITION THE FRENCH
MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE DJIBOUTIANS TO TAKE. JUDGING PAST
INDICATIONS, WE SUSPECT THE FRENCH WILL COUNSEL THE

DJIBOUTIANS TO STAY AWAY AND NOT GET INVOLVED IN THE CROSS-
FIRE.

CLARKE

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